



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Inspector General
Criminal Investigations Division**

Columbus Couple Sentenced for Theft of Deceased Veteran's Benefits

COLUMBUS – A husband and wife were sentenced for theft and false statements involving a 19 year scheme in which they received and cashed VA pension checks in the name of a deceased veteran. Thomas Adams stole the identity of his deceased roommate in 1985, cashed his VA benefit checks and even filled out numerous financial and medical forms to keep the payments coming, resulting in a loss to the VA of \$156,759. The scheme was uncovered in part with the assistance of the deceased veteran's family.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Special Agent-in-Charge John W. Brooks, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General, Central Field Office of Investigations, announced that on April 13, 2007, Thomas Adams was sentenced to a year and one day in prison and three years probation for Theft of Government Funds. Sandra Adams previously received a sentence of two years probation, for making false statements during this investigation.

Lockhart commended the investigation conducted by VA/OIG/CID agents and Assistant United States Attorney Dale Williams who prosecuted this case.

United States Attorney Gregory G. Lockhart

Southern District of Ohio

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